



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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## The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 263, February 28, 2025

**Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor**

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

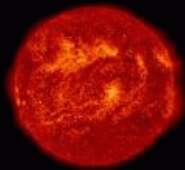
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](http://SpaceWeather.com), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



### Solar-Terrestrial Data

01 Mar 2025 1817 GMT  
SFI: 155 SN: 107  
A-Index: 32  
K-Index: 3  
X-Ray: C1.1  
304A: 142.7 @ SEM  
Ptn Flx: NoRpt  
Etc Flx: NoRpt  
Aurora: 1/n=1.99  
Mag (Bz): -0.2  
Solar Wind: 666.8  
Geomag Field UNSETTLD  
Sig Noise Lvl S2-S3  
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nongh.com>  
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## DX News

**5H, TANZANIA.** Charles, NK8O, operates during his spare time as **5H3DX** from **February 20th until March 6th**. QSL via [NK8O](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0221-0307)

**5N, NIGERIA.** Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as **5N9DTG**. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using FT8 and FT4 with Superfox and MSHV modes. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0314)

**5R, MADAGASCAR.** Richard, HB9FHV is active holiday style as **5R8RH** from Nosy Be (AF-057), Madagascar **until March 7th**. He can operate SSB on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. As for QSL, "I will send PDF by email", he says.

-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0228-0307)

**5W, SAMOA.** Dave, G4BUO will be active as **5WØUO** from Samoa (OC-097) from **February 22nd to March 3rd**. He is a 99% CW operator. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW in early April.  
-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0221-0307)

**5X, UGANDA.** Currently based in Nairobi (Kenya), and using his 5Z4J callsign, John, ZS5J has just received his **5X1J** license. "I have an office in Uganda and I travel by road to Uganda from Kenya on a regular basis, usually for 2 to 3 weeks for each trip", he says. "It is on these trips that I will be using my 5X1J callsign. I will be operating mostly from Jinja, at the source of the River Nile near Lake Victoria". More information and updates will be posted to <https://www.qrz.com/db/5X1J>. QSL only via LoTW.  
-[425DXN # 1763 February 15, 2025] (0214-0307)

**6W, SENEGAL.** Willy, ON4AVT, signs **6W7/ON4AVT** from **February 2nd to April 10th** from the town Warang. QRV on 80-10m (CW, SSB, FT8) and via QO-100. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, eQSL.  
-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0411)

**6Y, JAMAICA.** Iain, G4SGX will be active as **G4SGX/6Y** from Jamaica (NA-097) on **March 1st-21st**. He will operate CW only on 80-10 meters (hopefully also "some top band action") and will take part in the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest (8-9 March). QSL via LoTW, or via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).  
-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0228-0321)

**8P, BARBADOS.** Chris, WA7RAR will be active as **8P9CB** from Barbados (NA-021) on **March 5th-16th**. He will operate SSB and CW on 20-10 meters, often from POTA sites. QSL via LoTW, QRZ Logbook, or direct to [WA7RAR](#).  
-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0228-0321)

**8Q, MALDIVES.** Mamoru, JH3VAA, will be operating as **8Q7VA** from **February 26th until March 5th** on HF (mostly FT8). QSL via [JH3VAA](#).  
-[DXNL # 2442 January 22, 2025] (0221-0307)

**8Q, MALDIVES.** Takio, JH3QFL will be QRV as **8Q7FL** from **February 26th to March 6th**. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using FT8. QSL direct to [JH3QFL](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0307)

**8R, GUYANA.** Aldir, PY1SAD will be active again as **8R1TM** from Georgetown, Guyana from **March 11th to April 26th**. He will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on the HF bands and via satellite. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ Logbook, or direct to [PY1SAD](#).  
-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0307-0425)

**9A, CROATIA.** Watch for Charlie, NF4A, operating as **9A/NF4A** from **February 25th to March 3rd**. For the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 1st-2nd) he joins the 9A1A team. QSL via [NF4A](#).  
-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0221-0307)

**9L, SIERRA LEONE.** Peter, VK3HEX is QRV as **9L/VK3HEX** **until March 7th**. Activity is in his spare time, and he has been active on 10 meters using SSB. This may soon include being active on 12 meters as well. QSL via operator's instructions.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0307)

**C5, THE GAMBIA.** Przemo, SP3PS is QRV as **C5SP** **until mid-March**. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to [SP3PS](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0314)

**C6, BAHAMAS.** Chad, WE9V will be active as **C6ACK** while visiting "various islands" in the Bahamas from **February to May**. He will be QRV on 40-6m. He says he will eventually set up ClubLog. QSL via LoTW (preferred), or direct to [WD9DZV](#).  
-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0221-0502)

**D6, COMOROS.** Elvira, IV3FSG will be QRV as **D68Z** from Moroni from **March 3rd to 18th**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via [IK2DUW](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0321)

**DL, GERMANY.** Special callsign **DAØIARU** (special DOK IARU00) celebrates the IARU centenary **until April 27th**. QSL will be sent automatically via the bureau; direct via [DL2VFR](#).

-[DXNL # 2444 February 5, 2025] (0207-0307)

**DL, GERMANY.** Special callsign **DL2Ø25C** celebrates Chemnitz as one of the European Capitals of Culture 2025 from **January 18th until March 31st**. In addition, **DL2Ø25B**, **DL2Ø25E**, **DL2Ø25W**, and **DL2Ø25S** will also be active, marking previous German cities similarly honored (Berlin, Essen, Weimar) and the DARC district Saxony, where Chemnitz is located. An award program is also available; see <https://www.2025c.de>. QSL only in various digital forms.

-[DXNL # 2441 January 15, 2025] (0117-0328)

**DXCC TOP TWENTY.** Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of February 27, 2025:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. VKØM	Macquarie Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. KP5	Desecheo Island
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. VKØH	Heard Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. FT/T	Tromelin Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF February 28, 2025] (0228-0321)

**EP, IRAN.** Hamid, **EP4HR** has been active on 17 meters using FT8 around 1700z. QSL via [IZ2RZQ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0321)

**F, FRANCE.** Georges, F6IMD and others will be active as **TMØ6CDN** from **February 15th to March 2nd** during the traditional Nice Carnival (Carnaval de Nice). Paper QSL cards will not be provided; eQSLs will be downloadable from <https://www.imgbluew.com/TM06CDN/TM06CDN.html>.

-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0214-0307)

**FJ, SAINT BARTHELEMY.** Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as **TO1P** from St. Barthelemy (NA-146) from **March 24th to April 4th**. He will operate SSB, FT8 and RTTY on 40, 17 and 10 meters. See <http://fj.dxpedititions.org> for updates. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0228-0404)

**FJ, SAINT BARTHELEMY.** Andreas, DK6AS is QRV as **FJ/DK6AS** **until sometime in March**. He plans to be active in the ARRL DX CW contest (February 15th-16th). QSL to [DK6AS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 13, 2025] (0214-0307)

**FM, MARTINIQUE.** Yuri, VE3DZ will be QRV as **TO4A** as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 1st – 2nd**). QSL to [VE3DZ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0307)

**FS, SAINT MARTIN.** Jeff, VA3QSL will be active holiday style as **FS/VA3QSL** from St. Martin (NA-105) from **February 16th to March 4th**. He will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on 40-6 meters. QSL via LoTW or [VA3QSL](#).

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (0214-0307)

**H4, SOLOMON IS.** Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active again as **H44MS** from the Solomon Islands from **February 9th to May 7th**. He is usually QRV daily, with activity on 80-6 meters SSB and FT8. QSL via [DL2GAC](#).

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0207-0509)

**HK, COLOMBIA.** Matt, KC1XX is QRV as **5K4X** from Medellin as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 1st – 2nd**). QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0307)

**HL, SOUTH KOREA.** Special event station **HL1ØØIARU** will be active from **March to April** to mark the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union. QSL via [HL1IWD](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0328)

**HP, PANAMA.** A group of operators are QRV as **3F3RRC** until **March 3rd**. QSL via [MØOXO's QQRS](#) and LoTW.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0307)

**I, ITALY.** Members of ARI Bari will operate the commemorative Marconian station IY7M from the San Cataldo lighthouse on **March 1st**, for the opening of the Museum of Radio, Lighthouses and Coastal towers of Apulia. It will be joined by other stations operating from other local lighthouses. In particular, members of ARI Lecce will be active as **I17SML** (QSL via [IØ7AF](#)) from the lighthouse at Santa Maria di Leuca, from 0900 to 1400 UTC. QSL via [IØ7XNB](#).  
-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0228-0307)

**ISØ, SARDINIA.** Special callsign **IRØAPTT** celebrates the 50th anniversary of ARI Porto Torres (IQØAK), Sardinia. Look for activity on all bands and modes from **February 12th until May 12th**. QSL via the bureau or direct to [IRØAPTT](#).  
-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0207-0307)

**J6, ST. LUCIA.** A group of ops will be active as **J62K** from Soufriere on St. Lucia (NA-108) for the ARRL DX SSB Contest (**March 1st-2nd**). QSL via [K9HZ](#), LoTW.  
-[DXNL # 2447 February 26, 2025] (0228-0307)

**J6, ST. LUCIA.** Steve, NY3B will be QRV as **J68SS** from **February 25th to March 4th**. He and other operators will be QRV as **J62K** in the upcoming ARRL International SSB DX contest (March 1st-2nd). QSL via operators' instructions.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0307)

**J7, DOMINICA.** Oliver, W6NV, plans to operate as **J79NV** during **February**, with a focus on the ARRL CW contest (February 15th-16th) single op, and as **J75A** in the ARRL SSB contest (March 1st-2nd) together with FM5BH (J79BH), F8AAN (J79AN), and F5VHJ (J79AC). QSL for J79NV via [W6NV](#); no info yet for J75A which has been used once before.  
-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0307)

**KH2, GUAM.** A group of operators will be QRV as **NH2C** as a Multi/Op entry in the ARRL SSB DX contest (**March 1st – 2nd**). QSL via LoTW.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0307)

**KH6, HAWAII.** Gary, N7IR will be QRV as **KH7M** as a Single Op/All Band/QRP power entry in the ARRL SSB DX contest (**March 1st – 2nd**). QSL direct to [KH6ZM](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0307)

**KH9, WAKE I.** Allen, **KH7AL/KH9** recently passed the 5,000 QSO mark. He expects to remain on Wake Island (OC-053) until about **March 21st** on this rotation: "then I will be home for a month, and then back for about three more months on Wake. I am enjoying my time and work here, so as long as my family supports my absence I will stay with this position". He regularly announces and updates his operating schedule on <https://kh7al.site/kh9-upcoming-activity/>. QSL via [KH7AL](#) (direct with SASE), Bureau or LoTW.  
-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0228-0321)

**LU, ARGENTINA.** Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano celebrate their club's 57th anniversary until **March 2nd** with the callsign **LU4AAO**. For more information see: [http://lu4aao.org/57\\_aniv\\_lu4aao.htm](http://lu4aao.org/57_aniv_lu4aao.htm).  
-[DXNL # 2447 February 26, 2025] (0228-0307)

**OX, GREENLAND.** Bo, OZ1DJJ will be active again as **OX3LX** from Greenland from **February 25th to March 14th**. His main QTH will be the city of Nuuk (GP44de) on the main island (NA-018), with possibly a daytrip to Manitsog (NA-220, GP35nj). As always, this will be a working trip, and he will be



QRV only in his spare time. QSL via [OZØJ](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and LoTW.  
-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0221-0314)

**P4, ARUBA.** Marty, KE4TT, will be active from Aruba (SA-036) as **P4/KE4TT** from **February 7th to March 11th**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on various HF bands. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or [KE4TT](#).  
-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0207-0314)

**PA, NETHERLANDS.** Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Dutch Marine Radio Amateur Club (<https://www.marac-radio.nl>), special callsign **PA4ØMARAC** will be active from **March 1st until December 31st**. A QSO with this station earns 10 points for the MARAC awards (see [PI4MRC](#) on qrz.com). QSL via [PA3CNI](#).  
-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0228-0321)

**PJ2, CURACAO.** Thaire, W2APF will be active as **PJ2/W2APF** from **January 12th to April 8th**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80-10 meters. QSL via LoTW or [W2APE](#).  
-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0110-0404)

**SM, SWEDEN.** On March 14, 1925, electrician and radio pioneer Sven Bernholm made history in Gavle by conducting the city's first radio broadcast under the callsign SMXF and using a homemade transmitter with 10 watts. Bernholm and Gefle Radioklubb's efforts led to nearly fifty years of local broadcasts. **SM1ØØXF** is the callsign for Gavle Kortvagsamatorer (SK3GK) to celebrate this centenary during the year. The first two activations will be on **February 14th (1400-1700 UTC)** and on **March 14th (1000-1600 UTC)**. QSL via the bureau.  
-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0214-0314)

**SP, POLAND.** The Polski Związek Krotkofalowcow (Polish Amateur Radio Union) will celebrate its 95th anniversary and the IARU centenary by activating ten special event stations from February 17th to March 3rd and again on April 11th-25th:  
- **3Z95PZK, HF95PZK, SN95PZK, SO95PZK and SP95PZK**;  
- **3Z1ØØIARU, HF1ØØIARU, SN1ØØIARU, SO1ØØIARU and SP1ØØIARU**.  
Details of a special award program will be published soon on <https://hamaward.cloud/awards>.  
-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0214-0307)

**T32, E. KIRIBATI.** Ken, KH6QJ is QRV as **T32AZ** from Kiritimati (OC-024) **until March 3rd**. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL to [KH6QJ](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0307)

**TR, GABON.** Roland, F8EN is back to Gabon and active as **TR8CR** **until at least April**, maybe longer. He operates CW only. Log search on <http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php>. QSL via [F6AJA](#).  
-[425DXN # 1763 February 15, 2025] (0214-0328)

**TY, BENIN.** Gerard, F5NVF is QRV as **TY5C** from Godomey **until April 2nd**. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to [F5RAV](#), or via LoTW.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 9, 2025] (0110-0404)

**TZ, MALI.** Ulmar, DK1CE will be active as **TZ1CE** from Bamako, Mali from **February 12th to March 4th**. He will operate SSB and FT8 on 160-6 meters, with special attention to 160m FT8, 80m FT8 and 6m. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW and will be confirmed automatically via the bureau.  
-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0207-0307)

**V2, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA.** Mike, DF8AN, operates as **V26MN** from **February 28th to March 1st**, and **March 9th-10th**. QSL via [DF8AN](#) or LoTW.  
-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0228-0314)

**V4, ST KITTS & NEVIS.** Tom, KØYA, and his wife Antoinette, W5RCX, sign **V4/KØYA** and **V4/W5RCX**, respectively **until March 4th**. Tom will be active during the ARRL DX CW Contest (**February 15th-16th**) as **V47Y**. QSL via LoTW.  
-[DXNL # 2444 February 5, 2025] (0207-0307)

**VK, AUSTRALIA.** Special callsign **VI1ØØSIG**, celebrating the centenary of the Australian Corps of Signals, has been QRV since **February 14**. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/VI100SIG> for more information. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0221-0314)

**VK9C, COCOS (KEELING) IS.** A group of operators will be QRV as **VK9CU** from **March 4th to 11th**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 (F/H or Super Fox) with three stations active around the clock. QSL via [DL2AWG](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025]

**VK9X, CHRISTMAS I.** DF4GV, DJ9RR, DL2AMD, DL2AWG, VK6CQ and VK6SJ will be active as **VK9XU** from Christmas Island (OC-002) from **February 18th to March 4th**. They will operate CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 (F/H or Super Fox) on 160-6 meters with three stations. See <https://vk9-2025.topdx.de/#welcome> for more information. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW three months after the DXpedition. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW or [DL2AWG](#).

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0214-0307)

**VP2M, MONTSEERRAT.** Mike, DF8AN, operates as **VP2MMN** from **March 1st to 9th**. QSL via [DF8AN](#) or LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2447 February 26, 2025] (0228-0314)

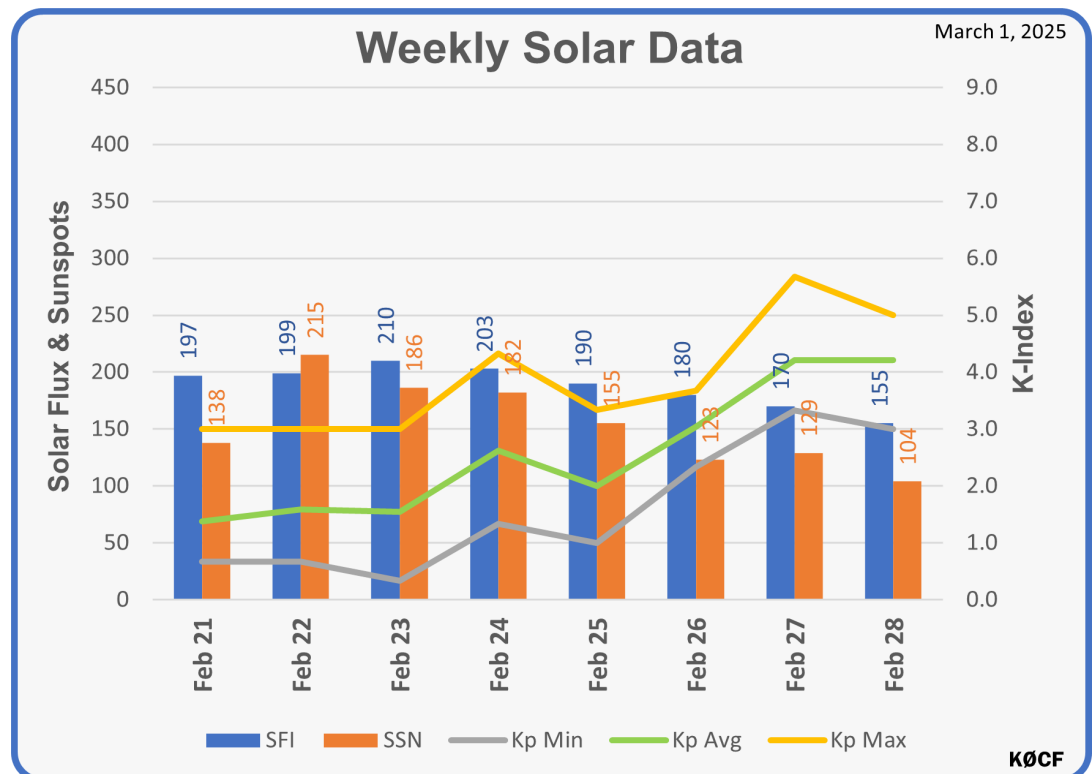
**VP9, BERMUDA.** Les, N1SV is QRV as **VP9/N1SV** until **March 3rd**. Activity will be on 30, 17, and 12 meters. He will be active as **VP9I** in the ARRL SSB DX contest (**March 1st – 2nd**). QSL VP9/N1SV to [N1SV](#), and VP9I to [WW3S](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0307)

**ZA, ALBANIA.** Mark, W4CK will be QRV as **ZA/W4CK** near Tirana from **March 2nd to 8th**. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0307)

## Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

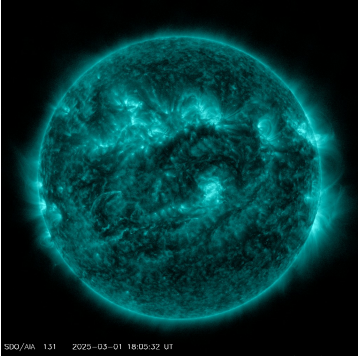
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

*Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.*

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



**Propagation Summary**

For the 8 day period from Friday, February 21st through yesterday, February 28th.

The average solar flux was 187, up 2 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 210 on Sunday, February 23rd, followed by a low of 155 on February 28th.

The average sunspot count was 156, down by 16 from last week, peaking at 215 on Saturday, February 22nd followed by a weekly low of 104 on February 28th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.9 with a maximum of 5.7 on Thursday, February 27th, indicating a minor geomagnetic storm. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 5.0 with a minor geomagnetic storm.

Solar flare activity since February 22nd has been low with 8 major flares, the largest of which was a major X 2.0 event on Sunday, February 23rd.

**Propagation Data**

Major solar flares, Saturday, February 22nd through 1413 UTC, March 1st.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Feb 25	1159	M 3.6
2	Feb 24	2302	M 3.9
3	Feb 24	2101	M 1.5
4	Feb 24	0702	M 3.3
5	Feb 24	0146	M 1.3
6	Feb 23	1927	X 2.0
7	Feb 23	1158	M 1.6
8	Feb 23	0213	M 4.9

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Mar 1	30%	5%	155
Mar 2	30%	5%	155
Mar 3	30%	5%	155

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on February 24, 2025).

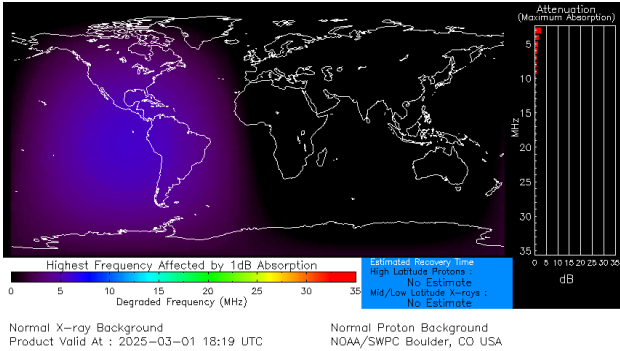
Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 1	195	3
Mar 2	190	3
Mar 3	190	2
Mar 4	190	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 5	190	2
Mar 6	185	2
Mar 7	180	3
Mar 8	170	3

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 9	160	5
Mar 10	155	3
Mar 11	160	3
Mar 12	170	5

Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:

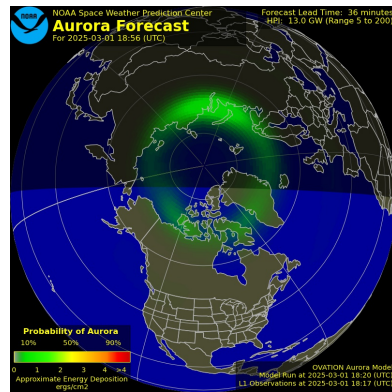


The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of



aurora versus time:



## Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

## Geomagnetic Storm Warning (G1)

A high speed stream of solar wind has engulfed Earth. Blowing faster than 700 km/s (1.6 million mph), the stream is causing intermittent [G1](#)-class geomagnetic storms and high-latitude auroras.

Photographic auroras could appear in northern-tier US states tonight.

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## Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

## A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

# Contest Calendar

## Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

## Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
<b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB</b>	Mar 1	0000Z	Mar 2	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Mar 1	1800Z	Mar 2	1359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
YB DX RTTY Contest	Mar 8	0000Z	Mar 8	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar 8	1400Z	Mar 9	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Mar 8	1500Z	Mar 9	1500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Idaho QSO Party	Mar 8	1900Z	Mar 9	1900Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 9	0000Z	Mar 9	0359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 9	1800Z	Mar 10	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 15	0200Z	Mar 17	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Russian DX Contest	Mar 15	1200Z	Mar 16	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Virginia QSO Party	Mar 15	1400Z	Mar 16	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Mar 23	0000Z	Mar 23	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB</b>	Mar 29	0000Z	Mar 30	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 5	1400Z	Apr 6	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
SP DX Contest	Apr 5	1500Z	Apr 6	1500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 12	0700Z	Apr 13	1300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 12	1400Z	Apr 13	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Georgia QSO Party	Apr 12	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB</b>	Apr 13	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Holyland DX Contest	Apr 18	2100Z	Apr 19	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

YU DX Contest	Apr 19	0700Z	Apr 20	0659Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 19	1600Z	Apr 20	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 19	1800Z	Apr 20	1800Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Quebec QSO Party	Apr 20	1200Z	Apr 20	2200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Florida QSO Party	Apr 26	1600Z	Apr 27	2159Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
7th Call Area QSO Party	May 3	1300Z	May 4	0700Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Indiana QSO Party	May 3	1600Z	May 4	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Delaware QSO Party	May 3	1700Z	May 4	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New England QSO Party	May 3	2000Z	May 4	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 17	1200Z	May 18	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Arkansas QSO Party	May 17	1400Z	May 18	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</b>	May 24	0000Z	May 25	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) ]